

functions, riding bikes together, and treating her to nights out whenever he could.

Sgt. Mark Renninger leaves behind a wife and three children. He was a veteran, who wore the uniform of the United States before putting on the uniform of the Tukwila Police Department in 1996. He joined the Lakewood Police Department in 2004.

He was an Army Ranger and has been described as having the kind of natural leadership abilities that put other officers at ease in difficult situations.

He was a SWAT team trainer known for an enthusiasm for his job. But he was also remembered this week for the joy that family brought him—whether it was trips to Mariners games or family vacations to Mount Rainier.

This was a senseless and brutal killing—and it specifically targeted the people who sacrifice each day to keep all of us safe.

This terrible crime has not only left the families of the victims shattered, but it has shattered our sense of safety and left an entire community in disbelief.

It was also part of a shockingly violent month for my State's law enforcement community that has also included a senseless attack on October 31 which killed Seattle Police Officer Timothy Brenton and left another officer—Britt Sweeney—injured.

These attacks remind all of us of the incredible risks our law enforcement officers take each day, and that even when doing the most routine aspects of their jobs, our law enforcement officers put themselves on the line for our safety.

Already this year more than 100 police officers across our country have given their lives while serving to protect us.

Each of these tragedies sheds light on just how big a sacrifice our police officers make in the line of duty.

But these most recent attacks in my home State also offer an important reminder that our officers are always in the line of duty, even when they are training other officers, out on routine patrols, or simply having coffee.

There is no doubt that these senseless attacks have left many law enforcement officers across my State and our country feeling targeted. But there is also no doubt that their willingness to put themselves on the line to protect us will continue unshaken. That is a testament to the commitment they make to serve and protect us every day, and it should remind all of us that these brave men and women deserve all the support we can provide to keep them safe.

As my State prepares to say goodbye to these four heroes, I again extend my condolences and the condolences of the entire Senate to their families.

Our law enforcement professionals put themselves between us and danger every day. Right now, in light of such horrible events, we hold them even closer in our own thoughts and prayers.

#### PEARL HARBOR ANNIVERSARY

Mr. AKAKA. Madam President, I rise in remembrance of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the "Day of Infamy," 68 years ago today.

I had other things on my mind when I woke up on the morning of Sunday, December 7, 1941. I was 17 years old and studying at the Kamehameha School for Boys. I climbed to the roof of my dormitory in the foothills above Pearl Harbor—and saw the planes swarm. I watched as their bombs and torpedoes delivered a crippling blow to the Pacific fleet. I saw smoke rise to the sky as the USS *Arizona* and other battleships sank.

When the planes flew over our campus for a second bombing run in Kaneohe, close enough to see the unmistakable red sun of imperial Japan, I confirmed what I had feared: we were under attack. I did not know what would happen next, but I knew for certain that my life, Hawaii, the United States, and the world would never be the same.

As an ROTC cadet, I spent the rest of that day in the foothills above our campus, searching for paratroopers. Later, I joined the Army and served as a noncommissioned officer in the Pacific.

Hawaii changed immediately. Martial law was declared. A military governor was appointed. Food and supplies were rationed. The people of Hawaii were subjected to a curfew, and sat in darkness all night—lights were banned to make it harder for the enemy to find the islands.

The terrible attack inspired a generation of young people to set their lives and dreams aside to fight World War II. When we returned home, victorious, we returned to a grateful Nation. Thanks to the G.I. bill and other reintegration efforts, these young veterans went on to become The Greatest Generation: Presidents, Nobel laureates, and leaders in their communities.

We who lived through Pearl Harbor and fought World War II know too well that today's service men and women face challenges similar to those from our youth. So does our Nation. But we benefit from the lessons of World War II: that our warriors can do great things if they return to a grateful Nation that provides them with the care and support they have earned.

World War II changed our country forever, revolutionizing our defense forces, industrializing our Nation, and leading the United States to assert its global leadership and become the world's superpower.

As we pause to remember those lost on the "Day of Infamy," let us also honor those who are overseas fighting today, and all those who have sacrificed to defend our great country over the years.

Like the veterans of World War II, today's servicemembers and former servicemembers can achieve great things if they are supported by the Nation they have defended. With that in

mind, let us show our thanks by honoring our veterans and preserving the Union they risked everything to protect.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Madam President, 68 years ago today, the United States was thrust into World War II following the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. Today, we pay tribute to those who survived the attack and remember the men and women who perished.

Although the attack claimed the lives of more than 2,300 Americans, it did not break the resolve of our military. Today, we are grateful for the service of those we lost in conflict as well as those who returned after fighting to keep us safe and free. I join all Floridians in honoring those who fought for our freedom on that day and throughout the ensuing campaigns in Europe and the Pacific.

On this Pearl Harbor Day, I thank all World War II veterans who answered our Nation's call to serve in the cause of freedom. They are true heroes and our Nation will always remember their sacrifice.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES GENTRY

Mr. BAYH. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life of LTC James Gentry, commander of the 1st Battalion, 152nd Infantry of the Indiana National Guard.

Jim was only 52 years old when he tragically lost his long and heroic battle with cancer on November 25, 2009, the day before Thanksgiving.

A native of Mitchell, IN, he served two tours of duty in Iraq. It was in Iraq in 2003 where Lieutenant Colonel Gentry and the more than 600 soldiers he bravely led were exposed to the lethal chemical sodium dichromate while guarding the Qarmat Ali water treatment facility in Basrah.

In 2006, Lieutenant Colonel Gentry was diagnosed with terminal cancer and given 2 months to live. He not only valiantly fought this debilitating illness—and survived much longer than doctors expected—but he also fought to bring crucial details about the tragedy at Qarmat Ali to the Nation's attention.

With his quiet courage, he advocated for justice for the soldiers under his command until his final days. Due in large part to his efforts, the Department of Defense is now investigating why so many service men and women were exposed to this deadly chemical.

As Americans, we take pride in the example Lieutenant Colonel Gentry set as a soldier, a leader, and a patriot. I had the privilege of speaking with him on the phone a little more than a month ago. Even in what turned out to be his final days, he remained steadfast in his dedication to his troops and in his efforts to ensure they received proper care.

Jim is survived by his devoted wife LouAnn Grube Gentry, five children Sarah Clark, Jason Newman, Emily

Gentry, Jennafer Newman, and Ellen Gentry, his parents George and Brenda Sue Gentry, brother Sanford Gentry, and sister Carolyn Hodges.

Lieutenant Colonel Gentry was a brave man who put his soldiers before himself, both on and off the field of battle. Today and always, he will be remembered by family and friends, fellow soldiers and all Hoosiers as a true American hero. We cherish the legacy of his service and his life.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of LTC James Gentry in the RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace.

#### AMINATOU HAIDAR

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, last week I spoke about the situation of Aminatou Haidar, a Sahrawi human rights activist who has been on a hunger strike since shortly after November 13 when her passport was confiscated by Moroccan authorities and she was deported to the Canary Islands. She is now in the third week of her hunger strike, and her health has seriously declined. An agreement between the Spanish and Moroccan governments was reportedly reached on Friday, but it fell through at the last minute and Ms. Haidar remains at the Lanzarote Airport.

Given this dire situation and the damage it is causing to efforts to resume good-faith negotiations on the future status of the Western Sahara, I want to repeat my appeal to the Moroccan authorities to reinstate Ms. Haidar's passport and allow her to return home to her family.

Morocco and the United States are friends and allies. The denial of citizenship and forcible exile of Ms. Haidar is inconsistent with international human rights norms to which Morocco is a signatory and will accomplish nothing positive. It also raises the question, as do the recent arrests of other Sahrawi activists, of whether the United Nations' mandate in Western Sahara should be expanded to include human rights monitoring. I believe the State Department should seriously review this issue when the UN mission's term comes up for extension in the Security Council in April.

There is still time, but it is running out, to resolve this issue in a manner that serves Morocco's interests and protects Ms. Haidar's rights.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING MITCH DEMIENTIEFF

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to remember the life of a much respected and accomplished resident from my home State of Alaska, Mr. Mitch Demientieff of Nenana. Mitch passed away on December 1, 2009. He was 57.

Mr. Demientieff not only held many important positions in the Native community, he was an ardent preserver of his Athabascan culture and a true family man. While a student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, he accomplished something truly amazing: at age 19, he was elected president of the Tanana Chiefs Conference, a post he held again years later. One year before his election as president, he broke into the local political scene as mayor of Nenana.

His legacy at the Chiefs included the modernization of the tribal health programs and working to provide education to the youth in the Native community. His personal legacy revolves around his dedication to preserving Native culture. Mitch was committed to making sure the traditions of Alaska Natives and his people were not lost. His interests included the stories he heard and passed on, traditional songs and dances, how clans were run and the practices of traditional medicine.

His achievements later in life included service on the Federal Subsistence Board where he was a strong advocate for subsistence rights for Natives. At the time of his passing, he was serving on the Nenana City Council and was the Nenana tribal chief.

In his personal life Mitch was an avid sports fan and coach who was loved by his family and community. He and his wife Kathleen, married for 24 years, have a blended family of six children and 14 grandchildren. Mitch was both beloved and respected in their community and throughout interior Alaska. Everywhere Mitch went, he made friends.

Mitch Demientieff will be missed by his family, friends, and all of the people he touched in the State of Alaska.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES A. (DOLPH) NORTON

• Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate a distinguished American public administrator, Dr. James A. (Dolph) Norton, who is being awarded the 2009 George Graham Award for Exceptional Service by the National Academy of Public Administration, NAPA. NAPA is a congressionally chartered national institution created to help governments serve the public better and achieve excellence. Dr. Norton's career in public service stands as a shining example and testament to the high ideals of public administration that NAPA represents. His diverse and numerous accomplishments serve as an inspiration to those who may also aspire to careers in public administration.

During the course of his outstanding career, Dr. Norton earned degrees from both Louisiana State University and Harvard University. He served with distinction on the faculties at Florida State University, Case Western Reserve University, and the University of Virginia. He went on to become the chief executive officer of several orga-

nizations during times of notable achievement. He directed a comprehensive research study on urban governance for the city of Cleveland, served as director of the Greater Cleveland Associated Foundation and director of the Cleveland Foundation, the Nation's oldest and then-largest community foundation, and as chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents as the State innovated funding for centers of excellence at universities.

In retirement he answered the call to serve from several institutions of higher education throughout the Nation by providing the unique skills necessary to manage their transition from one generation of leadership to another. He served with distinction as interim chancellor of the University of Maryland System, interim president of Hiram College in Ohio, interim president of Adelphi University in New York, interim president of Bryant College in Rhode Island, interim chancellor of Lamar University System in Texas, and interim president of Central Washington University.

I commend Dr. Norton for his lifelong dedication to public service and outstanding leadership, and congratulate him on his award.●

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3900. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transactions Between Member Banks and Their Affiliates: Exemption for Certain Purchases of Asset-Backed Commercial Paper by a Member Bank from an Affiliate" (Regulation W; Docket No. R-1331) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3901. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transactions Between Member Banks and Their Affiliates: Exemption for Certain Securities Financing Transactions Between a Member Bank and an Affiliate" (Regulation W; Docket No. R-1330) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3902. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Risk-Based Capital Guidelines; Leverage Capital Guidelines" (Regulations H and Y; Docket No. R-1332) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3903. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to using private contributions to acquire land adjacent to a designated wilderness area in Lassen Volcanic National Park; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3904. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of